

PRINCIPAL TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

LUTHERAN GOSPEL MINISTRY

OF

NORTH-CAROLINA,

IN SYNOD ASSEMBLED,

IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER,

1812.



TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A CIRCULAR LETTER

TO THE

CLERGY OF SAID CHURCH.

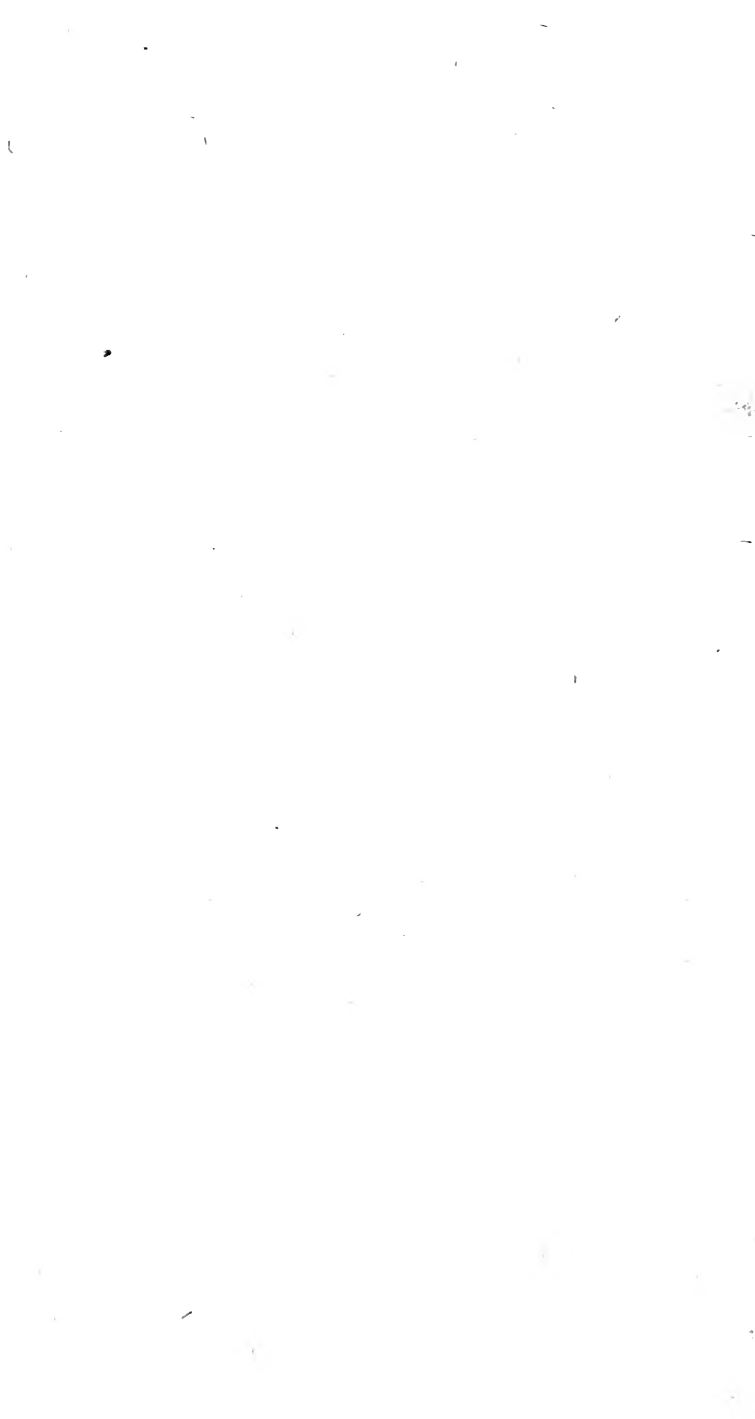


SALISBURY: (N. C.)

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1813.





PRINCIPAL TRANSACTIONS, &c.

ON Sunday the 18th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1812, the ministers of the Gospel of the Lutheran Congregations and their deputies, assembled in Guilford County, N. C. in their annual Synod.

The Revd. Mr. Markert opened the worship of God in the usual manner, and preached on 2 Tim. ii. 15. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." After Sermon, candidate J. Sherer was solemnly ordained and consecrated to the ministry of the Gospel, by the ministers Miller, Markert and Shober. The apparent devotion of a silent & numerous congregation, and the sensible presence of the omnipresent merciful God, gives unto us the faithful confidence, that the Shepherd and Bishop of his flock, Jesus our Lord, has himself called and authorized this his servant. After the ordination, Bro. Shober addressed the congregation in the English language on Luke xxii. 15. "With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer." After which the Lord's Supper was administered to about 90 communicants, among whom were 35 who were confirmed the day before; during the celebration of this holy institution, the Reverend Mr. Dreber preached out of doors, on John iii. 14, and Mr. Franklow on 1 Cor. xv. 56, 57, to an attentive and large English congregation; and the Revd. Mr. Miller concluded this day's worship with a serious and impressive exhortation to the congregation, and praying them to be reconciled unto God in this time of grace.

On Monday October 19th, the Reverend Mr. Miller

opened the Synod with an address to all present, whereby all were reminded of the importance of our charge, and by singing an appropriate Hymn, and with a solemn and serious supplication to the throne of grace, for his guidance and assistance to our deliberations.

The following ministers were present.

R. J. Miller, L. Markert, G. Shober, J. Sherer, Godfrey Dreber, who according to a resolution of our last Synod, was ordained in South-Carolina. See last journal.

Candidates to the holy office were,

John Philip Franklow, from Lewisburg County, S. C.
 Michael Rauch, (or smoke) Lexington County, do.
 John W. Meyer, now Bottetourt County, Virginia.
 Daniel Moter, Lincoln County, N. C.
 Jacob Krieson, Guilford County, N. C.

Deputies and Elders of Congregations.

David Gobel, Guilford County, John Derner and Jacob Helfer, Rowan County, Leonard Siffert, Lincoln County, Samuel Hiller, of S. C. Henry Holder, John Null, and Adam Fiscus, from Stokes County.

The Revd. Mr. Miller was then elected President, & G. Shober Secretary.

After which the journal of our last meeting was read, and such points as were not accomplished, or which were referred to this Synod, were first considered; among which the condition of our congregations in S. C. claimed attention, and as a petition signed by 20 of our members in S. C. was perferred & read at the same time, praying for the ordination of our candidate J. P. Franklow, it was resolved that he should be ordained; and because this could not be done soon in his congregation, & longer delay might be hurtful, it was determined that he should be ordained here on Tuesday the 20th of Oct.

The Treasurer then reported the account of the expenditure of the 25 Dollars left in his hands at the last Synod, which account was approved. The balance in his hands is 1 Dollar and 55 cents.

The deliberation respecting the orphan school propos-

ed last Synod, (see page 25) was postponed to our next meeting.

The liturgy which the Revd. Mr. Stork had in commission to compile, being not done on account of the weakness of his eyes, he together with the ministers Miller and Shober, were authorized to complete one in the German and English languages, and to have the same printed. — The ministers will endeavor to obtain subscribers thereto.

At half past 12 o'clock, candidate Meyer preached on Luke xi. 23. and the Revd. Mr. Miller on Rom. vi. 14.

A letter from the Revd. J. G. Shmucker, of York, Pennsylvania, was with pleasure attended to; he therein acknowledged the receipt of such addresses as by our last Synod were to be sent to the Lutheran Ministry of Pennsylvania, and which were addressed to him as Secretary; that their Synod had received them in tender participation, and had requested their Revd. President, Mr. Helmuth, to execute their resolutions respecting the same.

A letter of the Revd. Paul Henkel, (who now resides near the Ohio) which contained his acknowledgment of belonging to our association, and a short description of his activity in the state of Ohio, was communicated to the meeting.

The Revd. Philip Henkel, who was last Synod appointed missionary Preacher, reported by a letter (in which he also stated the with us inadmissible cause of his absence) as follows: "I served as missionary Preacher from the 11th day of May, to the 7th day of August; travelled 1534 miles, preached 50 times, baptized 115 children and 4 Adults, and administered the Lord's Supper 4 times, in all to 45 communicants; I received 112 Dolls. 73 cts. expended 4 Dolls. 6 cts. in traveling expences, and for horse shoes and Clothes 22 Dolls. 50 cts. I found in the States of N. Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, many deserted congregations, and they every where pray for Preachers."

On his enquiry whether he should make out a journal of his tour, and whether the same should be printed, it was

much regretted that he had not sent one, as on that account we could not determine any thing about the printing; respecting the balance in his hands of the money received on his journey, it was resolved, that it is to be left to him, either to keep the whole or part as he may think right.

Sundry congregations from Virginia, petitioned this Synod for the ordination of candidate J. W. Meyer; the petition after being read, was referred to Messrs. Miller, Markert, Shober and Sherer, to examine the same and report thereon.

A petition from Lincoln County, praying for the advancement of Daniel Moser, a licensed candidate, was duly considered, and his license to preach, baptize and catechise in all our churches for one year was renewed.

Michael Rauch, (or Smoke) and Jost Mütze also received license as above.

Here on the Session of this day was concluded by singing and praying.

And October 20th, the Session was opened again in the same manner.

The following report was read.

The ministers to whom was referred the petition from Virginia, respecting the ordination of the candidate J. W. Meyer—report,

That by enquiring of him, they found, that some years ago he received license from the ministry of Pennsylvania to preach, baptize, and catechise, that at the succeeding Synod in Pennsylvania he was not present, owing to family circumstances, that his written application for the renewal of his license was not accepted, because he did not send his journal and two written sermons of his composition, as he was informed by the Revd. Mr. Botter. That he did as well before he had received license as after the license had expired, administer all the Sacraments, partly because ministers had disappointed him in confirming his catechise children, as they had promised, and partly according to his own notion. That the said J. W. Meyer ac-

knowledges that he had erred egregiously in not having endeavoured for license, either from the Pennsylvania ministry or from this, and for having confirmed children and administered the Sacrament without ordination. They further find that the missionary ministers sent from this ministry, had visited him and his congregations, and had invited them, either to associate with the Pennsylvania or our ministry, and that the petitioning congregations are farther from the Pennsylvania ministry than from this.

In consideration of all circumstances, and in particular as there appears no assurance in the petition, that the said congregations are inclined and willing to admit and submit to our rules, and to the rules of the Lutheran Christian Church:—We believe it to be best that candidate Meyer be licensed to preach, baptize and catechise until our next Synod, and that he should receive the promise, that if possible two ministers of our association should visit in his congregations next spring, to confirm the catechised children, and administer the Lord's Supper; and that they should also be authorized to ordain the said candidate in one of his congregations, if no serious obstacle intervenes.

Synod approved of the above report, and requested the Revd. Mr. Miller and Sherer to accept the charge during the month of May next, to visit in said congregations for the above purposes, which, as well as the call of acting during this year as missionary preachers; they accepted, in faithful confidence on the assistance of our Lord.

Bro. Shober reported that by his service, he had by the blessing of the Lord assembled two congregations, the one by the name of Hopewell, where Henry Rippel and Charles Chitty are Elders. The other named Bethlehem, where J. A. Folk, Adam Fiscus, and Frederick Wolf are Elders; which two congregations request to be received into our association. This being also the request of a congregation assembled under the ministry of the Revd. Mr. Dreher, in S. C. where Fredr. Glas, John Kegler, John Crebs and Samuel Jumper are elders,

they were all with thanks to our gracious Lord received into our connexion and charge.

The following reports were resolved to be entered in our Journal.

R. J. Miller, baptized since February last, 150 children and 6 Adults.

C. A. Stork, baptized last year 97 children, 2 adults, and confirmed 46.

L. Markert, no return.

P. Henkel, do. do.

G. Shober, since the beginning of this year, baptized 60 children, 4 adults, and confirmed 48.

G. Dreher, baptized 18 children, 1 adult, and confirmed 12.

J. Shefer, since April baptized 53 children and catechised 35, (who were confirmed by Bro. Shober, and are not part of the 48.)

Candidate Moser, has baptized since April last 36 children.

The German Presbyterian candidate W. Houk, having petitioned this Synod for a recommendation to recommend him to the English Presbyterian Synod, in order thereby to be assisted to receive ordination, the Secretary was instructed to execute to him a certificate, certifying that the said candidate did last spring apply to our Synod for ordination, but that we thought we could not consistently interfere, he belonging to another persuasion, that the Presbyterian elders who were then present were satisfied with this resolution, and that we had not heard any thing against his moral character, and of course had nothing to say against him.

A petition from South Carolina, wherein the subscribers pray for a settled German Lutheran Preacher among them, or that at least such a one might visit them every three months, in order that their children may be confirmed and the Lord's Supper be administered to them, was attended to with heartfelt participation, and resolved that the last prayer should be accomplished.—The ministers who are to visit them during this year, were hereupon appointed, and recommended that those

congregations whose ministers are commissioned to travel, may be visited by those ministers who live next to them as much as possible.

A memorial from 4 congregations in S. Carolina, signed by about 60 of our members, requesting that certain established church rules might be generally adopted, in order that calumniators from without and the ignorant from within, may be prevented from asserting that we live without rules, was read and attended to, and resolved, that our rules already printed in the German language should be printed in the English language, and that in addition thereto such texts of scripture should be cited as contain our rules, or such on which they are bottomed. And it is recommended to all our ministers strictly to adhere themselves to our rules, and to procure their performance, in order that impurity, remissness and lukewarmness may cease to grow among us, that vital religion may be increasing, and that awakened souls may not be deterred from uniting themselves with us on the road to eternal happiness. It was further acknowledged, to be the duty of the elders to be present at every preparatory meeting before the sacrament, and when the communicants give in their names, that our members who live in open sin may be rejected from the Lord's Table, and that each elder who is afraid to do his duty, or neglects to perform his official duty also in this point, had better resign his office, or that it be permitted to the minister to release such a one from his office, if admonitions to be faithful, given in presence of some members of the congregation, shall have remained ineffectual.

Scripture says, 1 Cor. v. 13, put away from among yourselves that wicked person. You shall not eat with such sinners who are named. 1 Cor. v. 11, for such have no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Eph. v. 5. 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10. We are commanded in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to withdraw from every brother that walketh disorderly. 2 Thes. iii. 6. Mark the things which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Rom. xvi. 17. The rule however which our Saviour laid down, Matt. xviii. 15, 16, 17 is first of all to be observed, and Paul says, Gal. vi. 1. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness ; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. And if then all exhortation remain fruitless, what Jesus said to Peter, Matt. xvi. 19. will no doubt apply, as he repeats the same to all his disciples, Matt. xviii. 18. N.B. What Paul says, 1 Cor. vi. 1---7. is also to be recommended.

In taking a view of our congregations, it was much regretted that many of our members sometimes soon after their confirmation, quit attending to the preaching of the gospel, and only come when they have children to christen, and that others absolutely live like heathens, and will yet be called members of our church ; it is therefore very pressingly recommended, that the duty of the ministers to visit such backsliders with the elders may never be delayed, so as to attract them by love and friendship, and to entice them to turn and become real and vital christians, and to continue such visits as long as any hope of return and amendment exists. The Lord will certainly bless and prosper such endeavours.

A proposition, that it be recommended to all the members of our church, that in case they are about entering into the State of matrimony, they would according to the custom of all well regulated churches, suffer the bands of matrimony to be published, and be married by one of our ministers ; was considered and without a dissenting voice adopted

It was also resolved, that hereafter only such children shall be recorded in our church books as are baptized by one of our ministers or duly licensed candidate, or such who are baptized by a regular minister of the German or English Presbyterians.

Complaints being made that during the celebration of the Lord's Supper, disorders are in some congregations committed, especially when persons are admitted in the house who do not understand the language, and

only meet for the purpose of mocking the holy institution; it is therefore left to the elders and ministers of each congregation to admit only such to be visitors during the celebration aforesaid, as are of good report and to dismiss the others; this might be done by dismissing the whole congregation after sermon, and that then the communicants take up the first places, or any other manner approved by the elders, &c.

After a sermon preached by Br. Shober, on Psalm, cxxvi. 5, 6. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy," &c. Candidate J. P. Franklow, was consecrated a minister of the gospel, and the solemn ordination was performed by the ministers Miller, Markert and Shober.

The Revd. Mr. Franklow was hereupon requested to make one or more visits in a part of South Carolina, called Salt-Water, there to enquire into the situation of the religion of our members, who formerly had a well regulated congregation, and to report the result of his enquiries to the next Synod.

The Secretary was charged to procure the seal which two years ago had been resolved to be procured for the use of our ministry; and to pay for the same out of our funds.

Towards the support of poor beginners in the holy ministry, the following received sums were paid to the Treasurer:

Of J. P. Franklow, out of one congregation in S. Carolina,	5	Dolls. 20	00	cts.
— R. J. Miller,			2	25
— L. Markert,			6	60
— G. Shober,			2	85
— J. Sherer,			16	50
— G. Dreher, (from S. C.)			5	00
			<hr/>	
Total,		Dolls. 53	20	cts.

Resolved, that an extract be made from this journal, and that the same be printed in both languages on subscription, and that the Secretary have all the rules of our association which are yet in force, and which are not

already printed, translated into the English language and annexed to the journal.

Resolved, that on the first Sunday of May next, a 3 days meeting be held in South Carolina, at Bethel's church, and that the ministers Stork or Shoher, G. Dreher and J. P. Franklow, God willing, attend the same

Philip Roth was accepted as a candidate for the ministerial office, and received license under the superintendance of the Revd. Mr. Sherer to exhort, catechise and in case of necessity to baptize for one year.

For the same time, Jacob Miller of Stokes County, also received license to exhort, read, and in case of necessity to baptize.

General license to preach and act as above, were renewed to Jacob Krieson.

Resolved, that our next Synod be held on the 3d, Sunday of October 1813, in Rowan County, at the Pilgrim's church.

Our business being finished, and it being late, we adjourned to the house of the Revd. Mr. Sherer, where in presence of most of the preachers, 2 candidates and one deputy, the journal was read and completed.

Hereupon President Miller, concluded this our annual Synod, by singing an appropriate Hymn, and a feeling and encouraging address, to remain faithful labourers in the vineyard of our Lord, that we may not be ashamed when he comes to call us to an account.

In the concluding prayer we supplicated the throne of grace for forgiveness of all errors and neglects, and in particular for what we have erred in or neglected during our this year's deliberation, prayed for his blessing upon what we had resolved in his name, thanked him for the many favours he had poured down upon us his poor servants, and upon our congregations, and for his mercies and patience with our weakness and infirmities, and recommended ourselves and all the ministers of the gospel, in particular those of our churches, to his further mercies, protection and the guidance of his holy spirit, and that he might not take away his holy spirit from our congregations.

May he do more as we understand pray for, for his name sake.

Amen.

Extract from the Journal,

G. SHOBER, Secretary.



Rules entered into by the Conferency.

- Oct. 1803. Only such can be admitted full members of our church, who are baptized and according to our rule confirmed and actually partake of the Lord's Supper.
- Oct. 1804. Resolved that all such persons as live in open vice, to the scandal of others, shall not be permitted to partake of the holy Sacrament nor stand as Godfathers, if after they have been reprimanded privately or openly by the elders or preacher, they continue in their bad practices, and every minister is at liberty to baptize their children or to refuse it.
- Oct. 1806. The above rule was firmly established, and with this addition, that it shall be read once every year in each congregation.
- Aug. 1810. Resolved, that if parents of illegitimate children, wish to have their children baptized, they must first according to the rule of our forefathers, openly before the congregation, or before the minister and elders, confess their transgression, and solemnly promise to amend their lives. And in case Father or Mother refuse to do so, the child may be baptized if one of them, either Father or Mother, submits to this rule, provided he or she engages for the christian education of such child. And all such transgressors who refuse to submit to this rule, if regularly asked so to do, are excluded from our church, until they submit thereto.
- (See Journal, April, 1812, 17.)

A CIRCULAR,

To the Clergy of the Lutheran Church in the State of North-Carolina.

MY DEAR BRETHERN IN THE LORD,

PERMIT me, in my official capacity, at this awful crisis, when both the civil and religious world are visibly in a state of fluctuation; and by dashing against each other, thousands are literally sinking in the ruins of both, to rise no more! to address to your serious consideration the following particulars, in respect to the discharge of your official duties, as Ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And, first, as by your own profession, you are called by the spirit of God, to stand upon the walls of his Zion, as his watchmen, to warn his people, see Isa. v. 8. 1. and Ezek. xxxiii. 1—10. Therefore, let the duties of the watchman lie near your heart; remember that it is an all-important charge. The souls of men are precious in the sight of God, and they ought to be precious in our sight also; for, their blood will be required at the watchman's hand. If he is diligent and faithful in warning them, he will deliver his own soul. Let the consideration of this excite us to watchfulness, care and diligence in the discharge of every ministerial duty toward them: that, thereby, we may show ourselves to God and men, workmen that need not to be ashamed. Let us, then, endeavour to acquire and cultivate a spirit of skill and tenderness, in order to enable us to comfort and encourage the broken-hearted and tempted believer; and, likewise, a spirit of intrepidity and firmness, to enable us to reprove and rebuke, with all the authority of God's word, those who act inconsistently with their profession. Let us, in this case, be disinterested, zealous for the glory of God, prepared for the cross, superior to personal considerations, to the fear of men, and to the shackles of party and bigotry; that with all plainness of speech and behaviour, we may

detect the transgression and expose the hypocrisy of those, who profess to know God, but in works do deny him. I well know, my dear Brethren, that this requires more courage, and will generally expose us to greater trials, than all possible severity against avowed infidels and open profligates. And, it may be, that self-love, ambition, avarice, love of ease and aversion to the cross, may suggest to some of us, spare the rich and powerful: but God says, "spare not," and we must obey him and not men, please him and not ourselves. Moreover, we have solemnly pledged ourselves to the Church, & to the world, at our last, & at 2 other of our preceding synodical meetings, that we would thus act; by excluding from a participation of the sacraments of our Church, all those of her members who continue to live in open and wilful sin. And let me ask, has not our remissness in this very case, been one great cause of so many of our people's leaving our communion? I specially those of our young people, who have first been awakened from the sleep of sin and death under the preaching of other denominations? Let us, then, by a conscientious adherence to the rule made in that case, endeavour to remove this stumbling-block out of the way, and this reproach from our Church, and likewise the rule of last Synod, respecting those who do not regularly attend the ordinances of the gospel; carefully observing our Saviour's rule, Matth. xviii. 15, 16, 17. and by every other lawful and endearing means, endeavour to win them over to their duty and interest. Let me again remind you, that the times in which we live, are both perilous and portentous, and have been long predicted by the word of God; therefore, let us be prepared for the event, by a steady adherence to the simple truths of the gospel; which will do more to preserve us, and those committed to our care, from the prevailing errors of this unhappy period, than by entering into the various controversies that are agitating the Christian world. Let us also attend closely to the catechising of the children in our respective charges, and let it be our chief care and principal endeavour, by the aid of the holy spi-

rit of God, to leaven this lump with the knowledge of divine truth : but, if this is neglected, be assured that the natural consequence will be, that all vital piety will soon decay and die away from among our dear people. Let us press upon the tender minds of the young, a deep sense of their fallen, undone, sinful and miserable state by nature ; the easy, simple and safe remedy, that infinite Mercy hath provided and revealed in the gospel of his blessed Son : of the infinite merit of his all-atoning blood, and meritorious life, whereby they can alone be reconciled to God their heavenly father, by faith in them ; and that this faith is God's free gift to them, and can only be produced in their hearts by the operations of his holy spirit. Lead them to pray for this, to hope and look for it from God, who alone can give it. If, through the blessing of God upon our labours, we can succeed in this most important point, we may confidently hope that they will be preserved from the baneful influence of those loose, legal, pharisaical and antinomian doctrines, that are in our unhappy days deluging the Christian world. And we may also hope to see a permanent revival and spread of gospel truth in our Church. But without this, although the outward form of religion may, and I have no doubt will, remain in our Church whilst the present race of men lasts ; yet, it will soon disappear too, and with it all Church connexion and all communion of Saints on earth. This may, to many, seem a bold assertion ; it is, however, in conformity to the word of God. The witnesses are to be slain, and the signs of the times speak the event approaching. It is our duty, by an humble dependence upon the Divine aid and assistance, to stem, if we cannot stop the torrent. Remember, the great reformer whose name we bear as a denomination ; he was but one man, and but a man ; what did he achieve ? May Luther's God, and our God, enable us by his grace to go and do so likewise, is the sincere prayer of

Your affectionate Brother,

R. J. MILLER.



